



PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPENCE REACTION ON RELEASE OF THE COX COMMITTEE REPORT

“Chairman Cox, Congressman Dicks and the members of the Select Committee on U.S. Security and Military/Commercial Concerns with the People’s Republic of China have done a great service to the nation. Their bipartisan report, with its unanimous conclusions and recommendations, paints an accurate and frightening picture of China’s aggressive efforts to obtain sensitive, sophisticated, and highly classified U.S. military technology – including their successful efforts to acquire the most highly classified information on U.S. nuclear weapons designs.

“It has long been my belief that the progressive relaxation of export controls, especially pronounced during the past 6 years of the Clinton Administration, has made it easier for potential adversaries to acquire sensitive military-related U.S. technology. The Select Committee report reinforces my concerns.

“The House Armed Services Committee will continue its long-standing efforts to stop the flow of sensitive U.S. technologies to countries of proliferation concern, including China. Two years ago, the committee tightened restrictions on the export of high-performance computers (so-called “supercomputers”) and required the federal government to have greater visibility into the export of these machines to potentially dangerous end-users. Last year, the committee mandated tighter controls on the export of militarily-sensitive U.S. satellites. It was the unauthorized transfer to China by U.S. companies of critical rocket design information resulting from satellite launch failures in 1995 and 1996 – information that helped China improve its ballistic missiles – that led to the committee’s tightening of satellite export controls last year and that also resulted in the creation of the Select Committee.

“The Select Committee’s report will serve as a road-map as we work to repair the damage that has been done to U.S. national security and attempt to take steps necessary to ensure that future administrations avoid making similar mistakes.”

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